Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 ACDA-05 MC-02 EB-07 COME-00 L-03 OMB-01

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R 310939Z JAN 76 FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2248 INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CONFIDENTIAL ANKARA 0821

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MASS, TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH AIR FORCE PURCHASE OF F-4 AIRCRAFT

1. MCDONNELL AIRCRAFT CORPORATION REPRESENTATIVES WHO HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATING WITH TURKISH AIR FORCE (TAF) OFFICERS RE PURCHASE OF F/RF-5E'S TOLD US THAT TALKS HAVE COME TO A HALT BECAUSE U.S. CANNOT GUARANTEE DELIVERY OF ASSOCIATED MODERN MUNITIONS ITEMS. THEY ALSO TOLD US THAT IF TAF LETTER OF INTENT NOT RECEIVED BY JANUARY 30, COST OF AIRCRAFT WOULD BEGIN TO GO UP BECAUSE MCDONNELL WOULD HAVE TO START CLOSING DOWN PRODUCTION. COST INCREASES WOULD NOT BE SIGNIFICANT UNTIL AFTER FEBRUARY.

2. LT. GENERAL GOKSARAN, TAF CHIEF OCSSTAFF, CONFIRMED TO CHIEF OF JUSMMAT AIR FORCE SECTION MCDONNELL REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT. ACCORDING TO GOKSARAN, MINISTER OF DEFENSE MELEN HAS SAID THAT LETTER OF ASSURANCE SIGNED BY GEORGE VEST DIRECTOR OF PM IS UNACCEPTABLE AND THAT FIRMER GUARANTEE NEEDED. GOKSARAN ALSO SAID THAT GENERAL SANCAR, CHIEF OF TURKISH GENERAL STAFF, HAD SENT LETTERS TO MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND FOREIGN MINISTER CONCERNING TAF'S INTENTION TO PURCHASE F/RF-4E'S AND RELATED EQUIPMENT AND SUPPORT AND ASKING MFA TO OBTAIN REQUIRED ASSURANCES FROM USG THT MUNITIONS AND EQUIPMENT WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE. GOKSARAN INTENDS, HE SAID, PERSONALLY TO GIVE A COPY OF SANCAR'S LETTER TO FONMIN BEFORE WASHINGTON VISIT TO INSURE CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT FONMIN IS INDEED AWARE PROBLEM.

3. THERE IS POSSIBLITY THAT ESENBEL WILL APPROACH
DEPARTMENT ON THIS MATTER. IF MATTER UNRESOLVED AT TIME OF
FONMIN VISIT, CAGLAYANGIL MAY ALSO RAISE SUBJECT WITH
SECRETARY.
MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE

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